FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 FEBRUARY 1986

Israeli Interception of Libyan Plane

In the wake of the Israeli interception, forced landing on occupied soil, and subsequent release of a Libyan executive jet on 4 February, Jerusalem television said Israel apparently believed Palestinian leaders Ahmad Jibril, George Habash, Nayif Hawatimah, and Colonel Sa'id Musa were aboard. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio acknowledged the "error" by Israeli intelligence. The decision to intercept the plane was made by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, IDF radio disclosed. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir defended the action in remarks cited by the radio, stating that it was one of the measures Israel "had to adopt in order to defend ourselves."

For Syria's part, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' denounced Israel's "air piracy" in statements reported by Damascus radio. Warning that Syria will not "sit back with folded arms in the face of such aggression," Khaddam said Israel should realize that its attempts to control the region's airspace will create a "grave situation." Al-Shar' announced that Syria has requested an immediate meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the incident, according to the radio, and the Syrian chief of staff warned that Syria will choose the way, time, and place to respond to Israel's "crime." Al-Ahmar also commented on Syria's response to Israel's "cowardly act" in a statement broadcast by the radio after his return to Damascus. While Syria could prevent civilian aircraft flying to Israel, he said, Syria will not resort to such "lowly, terrorist schemes" but will consider "suitable means" of responding.

A Tripoli radio commentary viewed the Israeli action as "new proof" that "the barbarous Zionists are the only element of terrorism in this region" and that the Middle East will not be peaceful or stable unless Israel is "destroyed forever." Telling those Arabs who call for peace with Israel to abandon their "illusions," the radio said the Arabs have the right to pursue "Zionist killers" throughout the world. The radio had earlier interrupted its reportage of the "pan-Arab command" meeting in Tripoli to announce the interception, claiming that U.S. naval units gave Israel "full information" about the movements of the Libyan plane. Pan-Arab command resolutions reported by the radio include a call to establish a revolutionary strike force and suicide groups to hit U.S. interests in reply to any attack against any Arab country.

In further Arab reaction, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Saudi King Fahd, and Jordanian King Husayn all denounced the Israeli "air piracy" in telephone calls to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio disclosed. the Iranian Foreign Ministry also condemned Israel's "air piracy" in a statement cited by Tehran radio, while an Iraqi official statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio deplored the "cowardly, criminal act against the Libyan plane and its passengers." In Cairo, the Egyptian foreign minister stressed that his country does not approve of the interception of civilian planes, MENA reported.

Tabah Talks

The Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo 5 February to participate in the new round of talks on the Tabah issue, MENA reported. In remarks cited by the agency, President Husni Mubarak denied U.S. media claims that he is trying to "cut off" the Tabah negotiations, and he stressed that Egypt is "very flexible" on the issue.

Iran-Iraq War; Gulf Shipping

Iraq has publicly executed 11 Iraqis and 4 Iranians for planning car bomb attacks in Iraq, Iraqi security chief 'Ali Hasan al-Majid disclosed in an interview with Baghdad's *ALIF-BA'* reported by AFP. Al-Majid said the 15 saboteurs were caught thanks to information received from "friends" in Syria.

PLO Affairs

Khalid al-Hasan has decided to "suspend" his membership in the Fatah Central Committee to protest PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's refusal to recognize UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, Palestinian sources told the UAE's *AL-BAYAN*, WAKH reported. Meanwhile, in an interview with the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD*, PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi called on the United States to "improve" Resolution 242 by including Palestinian self-determination and other "rights." The U.S. insistence that the PLO accept the resolution as it stands is unacceptable, Qaddumi said.

Syria-Jordan

Due to "developments in Beirut," Syrian President al-Asad has postponed his visit to Jordan which had been scheduled for the end of this week, Jordanian sources told Kuwait's *AL-QABAS*, QNA reported.

DRA

Eighty DRA soldiers died 28 January in a raid near Estalef, Western diplomatic sources told AFP. In Kabul, a 122-mm rocket landed in the courtyard of the U.S. mission 31 January, damaging windows but causing no casualties, the sources added. In a separate incident, rebel forces executed eight DRA officials following a summary trial by an "Islamic resistance court," AFP later reported.

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U.S. Mission in Kabul Damaged by Rocket Fire

HK041346 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 4 (AFP) — Two rockets were fired on Kabul airport Friday and another landed in the courtyard of the U.S. mission in the capital, as fighting continued on other Afghan fronts, Western diplomats here said today.

The rocket at the U.S. mission burst windows but caused no casualities. The diplomats said it was not certain who fired the 122 mm rocket. Afghan rebels have generally used lighter, 107 mm rockets. Automatic arms fire was also heard at the airport for more than an hour.

Two armored vehicles carrying bloodied soldiers with several chained prisoners following behind were seen north of Kabul last week on the road to the Soviet base at Dar ol-Aman, according to reliable sources quoted by the diplomats. They thought the convoy was returning from an operation in Rish Khvor.

In other action north of the capital, 80 Afghan soldiers were reportedly killed January 28 in a raid near Estalef in the Shomali region, later triggering a bomb attack on the village by Soviet soldiers. Serious fighting was also been reported in the Panjsher region northeast of Kabul, with heavy losses on both sides, the diplomats said.

Guerrilla activity in the southern part of the country near Qandahar, where the rebels have long been fairly active, has reportedly been cut by half recently. The diplomats said this was due to the decision last year by former guerrilla leader, Asmatullah Ashakzai Muslim, and his several-thousand man militia to back the Kabul regime.

Pakistani Reconnaisance Flights Protested

LD041618 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1430 yesterday afternoon [3 February]. The director of the First Political Department stated by following:

According to reports by the relevant DRA authorities, despite the repeated protests by the DRA, the Pakistani military authorities continue their interference and aggression on DRA soil. On 9 Dalw [29 January] at 1415 two Pakistani fighter aircraft carried out a reconnaissance flight 25 to 28 km inside Afghan air space for 3 minutes at Jasi Meydan District, Paktia Province. The aircraft again resumed their reconniassance flight at 1435, 30 to 35 km inside Afghan territory for 7 minutes in the same region.

The DRA Government condemns this provocative and irresponsible aggression by the Pakistani Armed Forces and lodges a strong protest against the Government of Pakistan. It demands the military authorities of Pakistan put an end to such provocative actions, which will only aggravate the situation in the region; otherwise, the responsibility of their heavy and dangerous consequences will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Also, the Pakistani military authorities, in order to divert the attention of the people of Pakistan from the internal troubles and explosions taking place in that country, has claimed that on 27 January two Afghan helicopters had fired rockets at Parachinar and northwest of Parachinar [Pakistan]. After a comprehensive assessment and investigation, the DRA Government states this claim is groundless. It resolutely refutes the claim and states that the Pakistani authorities should stop spreading such lies, which only aggravate the border situation.

Karmal Interviewed on Arab-Afghan Ties, Israel

LD311059 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0853 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Kuwait, 31 January — In an interview published here today, Afghan President Babrak Karmal said that his country is working hard to end the armed conflict between the two Islamic countries of Iraq and Iran, pointing out that the continuation of this war is "senseless," and harms both countries. He also accused Israel of training the Afghani opposition.

Karmal, in an interview with the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN*, said that the Iraq-Iran war, which is causing all this bloodshed and losses in life and economy, serves only the interests of those countries which helped to inflame the war by providing the necessary climate for their military presence and for controlling the naval and air routes of the region. He pointed out that the Afghan people and the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan "are working most sincerely" to end this devastating war between the two Islamic countries.

Karmal attacked the present Iranian regime's idea of exporting the revolution, saying that "it is not an Islamic ideology and has nothing to do with Islamic thought, either from far or near." He added: "I would like to point out that terrorist gangs are also being trained in Iran; they are then sent to Afghanistan to shed the blood of Muslims."

Speaking on Arab-Afghan relations, Karmal said that his country seeks to bolster its relations with all countries, irrespective of their political and social systems, on a basis of peaceful coexistence, nonalignment and respect for national independence. He added: "We concentrate our attention on bolstering relations with the fraternal Islamic countries, and we are happy to state that we have good relations with the majority of these countries, such as Syria, the PDRY, Libya, and other progressive countries."

Asked about the current Middle East crisis peace initiatives, Karmal said that "historic experience clearly shows that the concessions made by the Arab countries do not help to bring closer a solution to the Middle East crisis; on the contrary, they further whet Israel's appetite for carrying out further aggressions against the Arab peoples."

The Afghan president attacked U.S. plans for solving the Middle East question, and said that the isolationist transactions which the United States embarked upon under the Camp David accords was the road to capitulation, which conflicts with the interests of the region's peoples." He also said that Israel is playing a basic role in the undeclared war against Afghanistan "within the

framework of the satantic military intervention in our country." He added that Israeli interference in his country is escalating.

In conclusion he said that the "Israelis make numerous visits to the camps of the elements opposing the revolution, based in the neighboring countries, to issue instructions." He added that due to the promises made by these officials [as received] to increase the volume of aid to the enemies of the revolution, the "opposition elements which are hostile to us, have been working to escalate the hostility against us and escalate sabotage in our country."

Public Health, Finance Officials Appointed
LD041759 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Proposed by the Ministry of Public Health and approved by the DRA Council of Ministers, Dr. Muhammad Asaf Charwal, nonparty, and Dr Muhammad 'Azim Karimzad, nonparty, have been appointed deputy ministers in the Ministry of Public Health.

Also proposed by the Ministry of Finance and approved by the DRA Council of Ministers, Zakim Shah, nonparty, has been appointed deputy minister in the Ministry of Finance.

Six Rebels 'Crushed' in Herat Province
LD041757 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] A BIA correspondent reports from Herat Province that, as a result of a successful operation mounted by the country's vigilance forces in Koshk District, Herat Province, six counter-revolutionary elements belonging to the Gulbuddin band were crushed.

Some six assorted weapons and a number of antistate documents and propaganda leaflets, linking the band with agent bands abroad, were captured. The report adds that in the course of the operation a DShK belonging to the enemy was destroyed.

Rebels Execute 8 Army Officers After Summary Trial
HK050438 Hong Kong AFP in English 0406 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 4 (AFP) — Afghan insurgent rebels have executed eight Afghan Army officials after a summary trial by an Islamic resistance court, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reporter today.

It said mujahidins from the Hezbe-Eslami Party's two factions headed by engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and Muhammad Yunis Khalis, attacked a government post five kilometers (three miles) from the Towr Kham borders at Kama Daka on January 29 and killed about a dozen soldiers in the first assault. They reportedly destroyed one jeep and a tank and arrested another 12 Afghan Army officers and several commissioned officers.

The prisoners were tried by an Islamic mujahidins' court and eight of them were found to be "willing supporters" of the Soviet-backed communist regime in Kabul, AIP said. All those convicted were executed, it added.

The incident follows a recent spate of executions announced by Radio Kabul, of jailed mujahidins by Afghan Government authorities.

Mujahidin Shell Airport; 80 Karmal Soldiers Killed
GF041355 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Afghan mujahidin shelled targets at Kabul airport. The area surrounding the Soviet Embassy was also shelled. Western diplomatic sources said that about 80 members of the Babrak Karmal regime forces were killed during fierce fighting which took place last week between the mujahidin and the Afghan regime forces in a village north of Kabul.

The sources also said that both sides suffered heavy casualties during fierce fighting in the strategic Panjsher Valley 50 miles north of Kabul, during the past 2 weeks. Soviet aircraft carried out retaliatory raids on a number of villages in the area.

Sikh Deportation, Extradition Ruled Out by UK

BK041501 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Excerpt] Spokesman [not further identified] while briefing the press stated that his Royal Highness Crown Price Harald of Norway called on president and prime minister today. His royal highness also visited the Raj Ghat [Mahatma Gandhi mausoleum].

While answering queries relating to extradition from Britain, spokesman stated that the British Government in a written communication on 25 November 1984 had in effect ruled out the possibility of extradition, deportation of known extremists resident in the United Kingdom. He therefore termed the reports that India had not asked for extradition as baseless.

On the subject of curbing narcotics, the spokesman stated that the Indian Government has received requests from some governments to station officers in Delhi to deal with narcotics. These requests are receiving due consideration. However, no decisions have yet been taken. Spokesman further added that India's efforts to control narcotics is second to none.

Bhagat Expresses 'Concern'

BK050308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, has voiced India's concern at the spurt of extremist activities in Britain. He warned that the close Indo-British ties may be adversely affected unless prompt and effective action is taken by the British authorities to deal with the situation. Mr Bhagat, who made a stopover at London on his way to Washington, told PTI that it is the responsibility of the British Government to provide protection to the members of the Indian community there.

Further Reportage on Sikh Unrest in Punjab

Death Toll Reaches 4

BK050320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] In Punjab, the death toll in yesterday's police firing in the curfew-bound Nakodar town in Jullundur District has risen to four. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, while 2 persons died on the spot, 2 of the 10 injured succumbed to their injuries last night. The spokesman said about a 1000-strong violent mob, trying to defy the curfew in the town, attacked a police party on duty. The police resorted to firing when a lathi [baton] charge and tear gas shells failed to control the mob.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has expressed grave concern over the incident. In a statement in Chandigarh, he appealed to the people to remain vigilant against the forces who are out to divide the people and divert their attention from the real issues facing the state.

Further Details

HK050134 Hong Kong AFP in English 0020 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 4 (AFP) — Five persons were killed including three in police firing and five others injured in the north Indian state of Punjab during the past 24 hours, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. Three persons were killed in police firing on a violent group of supporters of the militant All-India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) at Nakodar Town in Jullundur District today.

Surjit Singh Barnala, who heads the moderate Akali Dal party government in the state, tonight ordered a magisterial inquiry into the police firing at Nakodar where curfew was clamped as a precautionary measure as tension mounted following the burning of few copies of the holy book of Sikhs in a shrine on Sunday night, PTI said. Earlier an AFP reporter at Amritsar in a despatch said the trouble sparked off following burning down of a Sikh shrine at Nakodar allegedly by Shiv Sena, a militant Hindu organisation.

PTI reports said that police resorted to firing to disperse the violent mob after baton charges and teargas proved ineffective to control an 800-strong mob of AISSF supporters who attacked them. Two persons were killed on the spot while one of the five injured succumbed to his injuries after in hospital, the agency said. Of the two others killed one person was stabbed to death outside a cinema hall at Ludhiana Monday night by two unidentified persons; the victim was also not identified. The fifth victim, Gulzar Singh, described as a proclaimed offender and a wanted "terrorist" was killed in Gurdaspur District in an encounter with police Monday night.

Meanwhile, tight security arrangements have been made along the Jammu and Kashmir border with Pakistan in the wake of a report that Pakistan-trained militants were planning to enter the state and Punjab for "subversion and sabotage", another PTI dispatch from Jammu said tonight. Quoting an official spokesman the agency said that patrolling the border has been intensified and all sensitive points identified for infiltration completely sealed. The spokesman said there were reports that the trained "terrorists" had planned their entry into the state and Punjab with a "definite plan of sabotage" to be staged after a moderate-sponsored Sikh convention to be held next Sunday at the Golden Temple. The convention is expected to "annul" some actions taken by a militant convention held on January 26, observers said.

Congress-I Candidate Loses Mahrashtra By-Election

BK031651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Excerpt] In Mahrashtra, the Janata Party candidate, Mr Sambaji Pawar, has won the by-election to the state assembly from the Sangli constituency. He defeated his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr Vishnu Pant Patil, by 2,600 votes. Mr Pawar had the support of all the opposition parties. The by-election was caused by the resignation of the former chief minister, Mr Vasantrao Patil, following his appointment as governor of Rajasthan. This is the first time since 1952 that the Congress has lost this assembly seat.

Kabul Allegations of Airspace Violation Rejected

BK041525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protest made yesterday in which it alleges that two Pakistan Air Force aircraft violated Afghanistan's airspace on 28 January and entered Paktia Province up to 28 kms.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office today and told that Pakistan rejects this protest. He was asked to tell his administration to refrain from making such baseless allegations.

Yaqub Khan Expresses Concern Over U.S. Veto at UN

BK041541 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the National Assembly this evening that Pakistan is deeply concerned that the United States vetoed a resolution about Al-Quds [Jerusalem] in the UNSC [United Nations Security Council] and obstructed the adoption of measures intended to express the Islamic world's concern at the desecration of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

In a statement to the house, he said this is an issue causing great anguish and anger in the whole Muslim community.

He said the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Office on Sunday [2 February] and was asked to apprise his government of Pakistan's sentiments and concerns.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed the hope that the United States would not only realize the feelings and thinking of the people and government of Pakistan, but would respect the feelings of the whole Islamic world and stress to Israel that it should desist from further descration of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Airliner Makes Emergency Landing in Islamabad

BK041027 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] A PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] Boeing 747 which was on a flight from Karachi to Islamabad this morning had to make a belly-landing at Islamabad airport.

All the 265 passengers and crew on board are safe.

A PIA spokesman said that only two passengers received minor injuries while being evacuated from the plane through the escape route. They were given prompt medical treatment.

The spokesman said the cause of the aircraft belly landing had not immediately been determined, but an enquiry is underway. The PIA chairman, who is also the secretary of defense, went to Islamabad airport soon afterwards.

BANGLADESH

Rival Student Groups Clash at Dhaka University

HK041016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 4 (AFP) — Several people were injured and at least three residential buildings vandalised when rival student groups clashed today on the Dhaka University campus, eyewitnesses said.

Several rounds of blank ammunition were fired and grenades were set off in the fighting which continued for about two hours, campus sources said.

University authorities confirmed continuing campus trouble but said they could not estimate the number of injured or determine the extent of damage done during the clashes.

A meeting is to be held later today to review the situation, officials said.

Police sources said forces had been sent to the campus to end the fighting, but they could not immediately say whether any arrests had been made.

The clashes broke out this morning between pro-government students and supporters of the Central Students Action Committee (CSAC), a united platform of several anti-government student organisations affiliated with the political opposition, informed sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Dhaka University has traditionally functioned as a hot-bed of student politics and activism with frequent unrest and armed violence which last month led to the resignation of Vice Chancellor Muhammad Shamsul Huq.

Eyewitness reports said that after this morning's violence, CSAC supporters had ransacked three residential buildings and burnt down the office of the pro-government Natun Bangla Student Front.

SRI LANKA

President Vows To Destroy Terrorism 'This Year'

HK040634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0533 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Colombo, Feb 4 (AFP) — President Junius Jayewardene in an independence day message today vowed to destroy terrorism this year, referring to a bloody militant Tamil campaign for a separate state in the country's north and east.

He said the separatist drive was aimed at "destroying democracy and abrogating the will of the people... dismembering the country and halting its social, economic and political development." Sri Lanka will "this year overcome, destroy and eradicate terrorism," he said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the miliants were preparing an offensive against the security forces. He said the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), a major militant group based in Madras, India, and other separatist groups were gathering fighting cadres in the north-northeast, particularly in Mullaitivu, for a major attack.

The TELO yesterday had charged that Sri Lanka's security forces were planning a major anti-Tamil offensive to begin by the end of this month, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said.

Today's celebrations for Sri Lanka's 38th year of independence from Britain took place by the parliamentary complex at Sri Jayawardhanapura without an armed services parade. The emphasis was on religious observances and school children who paraded before the nation's leaders.

Independence Day Strike Detailed

BK050344 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Sri Lanka observed its 38th anniversary of independence yesterday with almost the entire north and the east preferring to remain mute spectators and the central highlands reeling under communal tension.

The eastern town of Batticaloa observed complete hartal [strike], with all shops closed and transport off the road. The protest was against the killings and arrests in (Rudiapuram) on the 19th of last month, desecration of churches, and harassment of priests by the security forces.

All the churches and Hindu organizations decided to keep away from the celebrations and instead pray for the country.

In Jaffna there was no ceremony; instead black flags were flown.

The AIR [All India Radio] Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumdar, reports that independence day and its eve claimed at least 25 Tamil lives at Mullaitivu. Twenty of them, described as militants, were killed, and security forces fired at boats claiming that they were trying to escape from the Sri Lankan territorial waters after an attack on the Army. Unconfirmed reports, however, indicated that Mullaitivu came under heavy fire from naval craft and the Army camp.

About 150 patients from the hospital close to the Army camp had to be evacuated as naval fire continued demolishing houses in an otherwise deserted town.

Police Arrest 21 'Hardcore Terrorists' 2 Feb

BK041105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Police commandos of the special task force arrested 21 hardcore terrorists belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the Eastern Province.

Security sources said that 75 terrorist suspects were taken into custody during a day long operation on Sunday [2 February]. On interrogation 21 of these suspects were found to be hardcore terrorists.

20 Terrorist Casualties Reported in Army Fire

BK051059 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Twenty terrorist casualties were reported at Mullaittivu yesterday when security forces effectively repulsed a terrorist attack. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that a security forces party from the Mullaittivu camp was on their way to collect water when they were fired upon by terrorists. Troops including armored cars were rushed to the Mullaittivu town under air cover from a gunship immediately.

Terrorists attempting to escape in two boats were fired at by the ground troops and the gunship. One boat capsized and 20 terrorist casualties were reported.

Foreign Affairs Official on Relations With Israel

BK251009 Colombo SUN in English 17 Jan 86 p 1, 13

[By Zacki Jabbar]

[Text] Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Tyronne Fernando on Wednesday dispelled fears that the presence of Israelis in Sri Lanka meant the government's foreign policy on West Asia had changed. Terrorism and the security situation in the country drove us to seek military assistance from the Israelis. However, this was only a temporary measure the Deputy Minister assured.

Delivering a lecture on "Sri Lanka's foreign policy on West Asia with particular reference to Palestine," at Hotel Ranmuthu, Mr Fernando said as soon as the terrorist problem was solved the Israelis would leave the country.

Regarding the Palestinian issue, he stressed that in the ongoing peace process between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the latter remained the main concern of the Sri Lankan government. "We are a free country and have very cordial ties with all others. Maybe we are closer to some, more than others. However, we should be watchful of our enemies as well as our friends," he said.

The Deputy Minister denied that the setting up of the Israeli interests section would eventually lead to full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The conflict between the Americans and Libyans had not changed the policy of our government in any way. The government did not intend to cow down to any superpower. The signing of the barter agreement with the Chinese Government in the face of American threats was ample proof of this, the Deputy Minister said.

UK Official Seeks Release of Kidnapped Journalist

BK031123 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] A senior official of the British High Commission in Colombo is in Jaffna to try and secure the release of the British citizen, Mrs Penelope Willis, who was kidnapped by the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students — EROS.

EROS claims that Mrs Willis, who calls herself as a freelance writer, had seen a number of people in Colombo, including those involved with security. They said this leads room for a lot of suspicion as to her real motive in going to the north. Mrs Willis was kidnapped on 17 January.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli 'Air Piracy'

GF050522 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] In connection with the hijacking of the Libyan passenger airline by Israeli jets, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement. In this statement the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the action of the occupationist regime in Israel.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also condemns the air piracy committed with the help of the U.S. warships in Mediterranean, a sign of impudence by the Zionist regime of Israel, and considers it as a sign of growing U.S. support for that regime. It also considers this action to be a violation of international law.

The communique also says it is essential that various states and international bodies take a determined action to stop such incidents and punish the state terrorism by the Israel regime.

Further Details

LD051025 Tehran IRNA in English 1009 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman here Tuesday strongly condemned the air piracy of the Zionist regime and forcing a Libyan passenger plane to land in the occupied Palestine, Tuesday.

It said that this act of piracy carried out in collaboration with the U.S. war fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, showed impudence of the Zionist regime and the increasing support of the U.S. Administration for it.

"This terrorist act", he added, "was a flagrant violation of international laws and a threat to security of passenger flights and endangering lives of innocent travelers."

All countries of the world and the international circles, it pointed out, should take a decisive measure in putting an end to such acts and punishing the Zionist regime which is the mastermind of government terrorism.

The Libyan liner was en route from Tripoli to Damascus Tuesday when it was forced by two Zionist fighters to land in a military airport in occupied Palestine. The plane was carrying a Syrian political delegation. Later on Tuesday the plane flew to Syria, landed in Damascus and all its passengers were safe.

Following the Zionist action the Syrian foreign minister called for the formation of an emergency session of the Security Council.

The Syrian vice-president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that the air piracy was a threat against air flight security and the Zionist action should be given an appropriate response.

Khaddam who was commenting on the issue after the arrival of the Syrian delegation in Damascus Tuesday night, said that the Zionist action will make the Syrian government to react.

Commentary Views Korniyenko Visit, Ties With USSR

LD041829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1116 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Excerpts] The title of today's second political commentary is: "The Meetings of the Soviet Deputy Foreign Affairs Officials With Our Country's Officials." Georgiy Korniyenko, the Soviet deputy foreign affairs minister yesterday met several of our country's high-ranking officials. He arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the official invitation of our country's deputy foreign affairs minister. Yesterday he had separate meetings with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis; Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign affairs minister; and Aqazadeh, the oil minister.

There have been many reasons since ancient times and particularly since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, for Iran and the Soviet Union to have good relations. The two countries' long common border and all its ramifications -- such as the need for good-neighborly relations; countless diverse economic and industrial grounds; common political interests in some global issues such as the adoption of common stances against global imperialism in international circles; and some other instances, for which there is not sufficient space in this commentary -- are among these reasons. Of course, at certain points, limited relations have been established, but there have been some corresponding reasons preventing the expansion and reactivation of relations at the level desired. The two sides' difference of opinion on the issue of Afghanistan and the imposed war can be regarded as the most important example.

On the Afghanistan issue, the Islamic Republic has always stressed solving this problem through the unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces and recognition of the rights of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to determine the fate of its own country.

Also, regarding the imposed war, Iran has always believed that one of the reasons for the survival of Saddam's aggressive regime, which has resulted in prolongation of the war, is the extensive sophisticated arms support given to this regime. The first and most urgent duty of those countries that truly desire to see an end to the war is to stop the flow of modern weapons to Iraq.

During recent months, high-ranking Iranian and Soviet officials on various occasions have expressed the desire to improve existing relations between the two countries; examples of this are the messages exchanged between Iranian and Soviet authorities. It is noteworthy that Georgiy Korniyenko is the highest-ranking Soviet official to have visited Iran after victory of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i Urges Army To Protect Secrets

GF021639 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jan p 18

[Text] The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, in his meeting with the officials of the Army Information Organization said: Sensitive environments like universities, secondary schools, institutes, and the Army are more exposed to the plots of our enemies than any other area.

While stressing the importance of the job entrusted to this Army organization, he said that it is necessary for them to remain gentle, mild, and refrain from muscle-flexing. It is also necessary for them to win the confidence of the general public.

The president also said that the Army today is not a foreign element in the revolution. While refering to the fact that the Army Information Protection Organization is more effective and productive in the overall effort of safeguarding the revolution and the country, he highly praised the services rendered by this committed and zealous body. While stressing the significance of the job done by personnel of this organization, he said: If you do your job well, everything in the Army and under its jurisdiction will prosper; but that if you do not have piercing eyes and a critical mind, then it is quite possible a sudden heavy blow may fall on the country and the nation.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said that the work entrusted to the Army Information Protection Organization is like that of a lookout post, because if a lookout post is unmanned even for a moment, it gives the enemy an opportunity to strike a blow. He said: Today your capabilities are higher than ever, because now the light of faith and loyalty to the revolution has become deep-rooted in the Army. The Army today is as one with the revolution. This organ of the Army can easily protect any information because you are now supported by trustworthy elements within the Army.

The president added: Today detection and the catching of people redhanded within the Army are done by the Army elements themselves. We are proud of this because Army personnel today — unlike in the past — are ready to make sacrifices and totally serve Islam. In fact, they are helping in the protection of information. Mr Khamene'i, stating that there were no anti-information elements — the most wretched elements — in the Army today, added: You cannot expect to be loved by everybody; the work of protecting information is a sort of interference. You should win the love of God and the love of responsible elements who represent the people, because today in this Army and among the committed personnel, protection of information is not difficult.

While referring to the incident of the Howzheh Air Force base and the warning of imminent danger from a young officer, he said: This young officer was so zealous that he felt as if he were on fire. He warned us of the danger which was about to fall on the country and the people. An Army man did this simply for the sake of his faith. There are many like him in the Army today.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council stressed that the personnel of the Army Information Protection Organization should work tirelessly and with utmost vigilance. He then referred to the resistance and sacrifices of the nation vis-a-vis their difficulties and the imposed war and said: This nation is a nation which has the ability to carry on its shoulders the flag of the combatant Third World countries against the oppressive powers. You who are working for such a nation must be alert and vigilant.

The president added: We must have the same seriousness and attentiveness in every aspect of our lives so that we play our role in the world. Although in the past 7 years the leadership and the Iranian nation have attracted the attention of the other nations, we must carry this mission to the end. This can only be possible through sincere and endless efforts and without making a show of it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam, while stating that highly important and sensitive jobs are mostly performed away from the public eye, said: It does not make any difference where you work; the important thing is the sensitivity of your job. Those who do jobs in the public eye are not always the best; the best do their jobs mostly unobserved. Therefore, you should prefer to be the best.

The president added that the sensitive environments like universities, secondary schools, institutes, and the Army are exposed more than any other area to the plots of our enemies. He said: Plots against every area which is sensitive are more minutely planned, and when there is a plot against the Army it means they consider the Army a sensitive area. Therefore, the job of the Army Information Protection Organ is even more important. The president added: You should never do a thing which might be considered showing off one's strength. Where there is real strength, there is more mildness. You people should work for fineness and minuteness and should give up egoism and selfishness. He said that man, a select creation, with hard work overcomes his weaknesses and is above even the angels.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i advised the gathering that for any sensitive job they should select a person who has won your full confidence.

Khamene'i also stressed the need for complete loyalty within the Army Information Protection Organization and also encouraged initiative among personnel. He said they should adopt an attitude which would win them the confidence of the public.

Musavi States 'Neither East Nor West' Policy Viable

LD022108 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Saturday that Iran has revised its export-import policy away from the plunderous big powers and has consequently strengthened its "neither East nor West policy" foreign policy dictum.

Speaking in a meeting with Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari and other officials of the ministry here on the role foreign trade plays in a country's independence Musavi said that it is a weapon in the hands of the colonialists to bully the oppressed countries, however he noted overseas trade can be used as a powerful means for independence of a country.

Musavi said that over the past two centuries foreign governments exploited Iran by the lever of foreign trade more than they did by any other means. He said that statistics released by the Commerce Ministry reveal that a viable no East no West policy has so far been attained.

The statistics also show that the government is continuing on its economic movement towards independence from colonialists and expanding of relations with Muslim and oppressed countries, Musavi added.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Praises Legislative System

LD021820 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2 IRNA — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told visiting Muslim Ten Day Dawn guests here Sunday that they should seriously consider adpating similar bills as those passed by Iran's Majlis and its Guardian Council as blueprints for managing their Islamic countries. He said the legislative system of checks and balances inherent in the Islamic Republic's system of government ensures that all laws conform with divine Islamic principles.

Speaking to visiting guests and dignitaries here for the seventh anniversary of Islamic revolution celebrations in Majlis Rafsanjani said that the enemies of Islam, principally imperialist big powers have humilaited Muslims for centuries. He added that Muslims humiliation has been so total that even other peoples of the world have been duped into believing that the lives of a few nationals of "civilized western countries" are more precious than those of thousands of murdered displaced and homeless Muslims at the hands of the so-called "defenders of the Free world."

Rafsanjani further said that Iran's Majlis and nation have the honour of having broken such a spell cast over the Muslims and proved that the future and success of the Muslim oppressed world lies in their asserting their inalienable Islamic rights vis-a-vis the imperialist powers and their surrogates' plots. Rafsanjani said "Islam today has established itself as a total way of life capable of managing societies in a sophisticated world."

On the Arab's struggle against the Zionist regime, Rafsanjani said he is certain that if Arabs had begun their struggle against the Qods occupying regime in the name of Islam some forty years ago, the Zionist state of Israel would not exist today, and the Palestinian nation would not be homeless. "If Arabs faced this important issue for another one hundred years under the banner of Arab nationalism they will not be victorious of ridding the region from the Zionist aggression." Nationalism per se he noted cannot but be limited in its scope and aims.

The Majlis speaker, Rafsanjani, added that Islam and the Quran, under the judicious leadership of the ulema who have throughout history borne the brunt of the severest repression against Muslims have today made possible outstanding success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in defiance of all contemporary political equations.

Libyan Special Envoy Confers With Musavi

LD022109 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2, IRNA — Special envoy of Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Sa'ad Mujbir met and conferred here Sunday with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. Sa'ad Mujbir conveyed the Libyan leader's thanks to the premier for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support vis-a-vis U.S. threats. The Libyan envoy said that such backing is a manifestation of the "deep friendship between Iran and Libya."

Premier Musavi said that in the light of such plots hatched by the big powers against Muslim countries, it was all the more imperative that they strengthen their alliance and adopt unanimous stand in challenge to the bullying of the U.S. and Zionist regime, he said that their latest plot against regional countries was the conspiracy to drive down the price of oil. He said greater unity was necessary in order to foil the conspiracy led by industrialised countries in collaboration with some OPEC member countries.

The prime minister stressed that the U.S. threats against Libya strengthen the Islamic Republic's support for Libyan Government. He added that today Iran feels Libya should be in no doubt regarding the significance of its independence and what it measn to the Islamic Republic. Musavi added that Iran has backed and will continue to support Libyans and the Libyan government.

Meets With Velayati

GF030544 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, Sa'ad Mujbir, special envoy of the Libyan leadership, yesterday met with Foreign Minister Velayati. During this meeting Sa'ad Mujbir conveyed the deep appreciation of the Libyan people and government for Iran's support in the face of recent threats made by the United States against Libya. He said: These statements of support did not come from one official but rather all officials announced their support. Iran itself has faced similar incidents and has successfully foiled plots in its struggle against the United States. He added: Iran's position is itself the best indication of how strong the bonds of unity are between us and points to the common views between the two peoples and the two governments. He said: It is not surprising that Iran has taken such a steadfast attitude in its support for Libya.

Mr Velayati thanked the envoy for the greetings conveyed by the Libyan officials and assured the envoy of Iran's all-out and general support for Libya in the face of U.S. threats. He announced Iran's continued readiness to support Libya.

Confers With Interior Minister

LD031104 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 3, IRNA — Special envoy of the Libyan leader, Sa'ad Mujbir in a meeting here Sunday with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its all-out support for Libya in the face of the U.S. threats.

Mujbir told the Iranian minister that the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi had given him the mission to convey appreciation of Libyan people and government to the Iranian officials and nation. The Libyan envoy added that the Libyan people like the Iranians will be victorious in their confrontation with U.S. imperialism. He also called for cooperation between the revolutionary committees of Libya with Islamic Revolution's committees of Iran and extended an invitation to Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami to visit Libya.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami said that Iran and Libya shared common interests and it was the responsibility of Iran to support Libya. He stressed that Iran had the duty to defend its allies in the face of any danger from the U.S.

Oil Minister Expresses Support for Libya Against U.S.

LD050745 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 5, IRNA — Oil Ministers of Iran, Libya and Algeria currently gathered here to coordinate efforts and take a unified stance on declining oil prices, discussed situation of oil market in two sessions Tuesday. Oil ministers of the three countries made decisions on ways of encountering the present situation in world oil market and also decided to resume talks on Wednesday.

Meanwhile the three oil ministers, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh of Iran, Belkacem Nabi of Algeria and Fawzi al-Shakshuki of Libya met and talked with Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Command Council of Libya, here Tuesday. The Iranian oil minister reiterated Iran's support for Libya in the face of U.S. threats. They also discussed oil related issues and Major Jallud made suggestions in this respect.

Deputy Foreign Minister in Algiers For Oil Talks

LD030607 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] Algiers, Feb. 3, IRNA — The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of international and economic affairs Javad Larijani, arrived here Sunday night for consultation with Algerian oil officials on world oil market situation. He is carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria.

In a meeting with the Algerian Minister of Energy and Petrochemical Industry Belkacem Nabi, both sides discussed world oil market and actions that the oil producing countries could take to thwart plots aimed at pushing oil prices down. They also stressed the need for a coordinated action and importance of exchange of visits and consultations in finding the best way to encounter plots of Western powers against oil producers.

The Iranian official arrived here after a visit to Libya where he held talks with Libyan officials on International oil market.

Comments on Upcoming Oil Meeting

LD041043 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 4 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Algiers, Feb. 4, IRNA — The deputy foreign minister in charge of international and economic affairs, Javad Larijani, currently here after a visit to Libya, said Monday that his tour was in connection with current situation in world oil market and plots of the U.S. and Western countries to reduce oil prices.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA he said "We should not let the U.S., Britain and other Western countries to ensure their interest through creating crisis." He added that efforts should be made to prevent any decline in oil prices by Western countries.

The issue was raised in talks with Algerian and Libyan officials and ways of adopting a unified policy was dicussed, he added. There is no doubt, he told IRNA, that in the light of a well calculated action by OPEC members conspiracies of the U.S. and Western countries will be annulled and oil price will pick up. Therefore, he noted, oil ministers of Algeria, Libya and Iran in their Tuesday meeting in Tripoli will discuss the oil price and will make a proper decision on the issue. Future meetings might also be necessary, he added.

On actions to be taken to encounter the recent drop in price of oil, he said oil producers which through excess production are playing into the hands of Western powers, should be prevented from doing so. Production level, Larijani added, should be checked and finally repayment of debts of oil producers to Western countries and their purchase from West should be connected to oil prices.

Venezuelan Envoy Urges Common Oil Price Strategy

LD011612 Tehran IRNA in English 1554 GMT 1 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA — Venezuela's ambassador to Tehran Jose Rafael Zanoni in a meeting with oil Iranian minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday said that his country shares Iran's view that OPEC should adopt a commons strategy to face plots to destabilize world oil prices. He said that OPEC should defend its position.

During the meeting Aqazadeh said that Iran is opposed to an oil price reduction and has taken measures which challenge the conspiracy. "Iran has only fulfilled its long-term agreements over the past three weeks in order to stabilize the oil price in free markets", he added. Aqazadeh pointed out that Venezuela's Minister of Energy and Mines Arturo Hernandez-Grisanti as the chairman of OPEC has a grave responsibility to face the plot and defend OPEC members' interests. The ambassador also called for expansion of bilateral relations in the field of oil research and exploration.

Meanwhile, Oil Ministry sources here have said that Iran would reject any proposal to reduce the prices of oil in any future session of OPEC. The sources said that an increase in the production ceiling would be dangerous due to the current situation. Iran has dispatched a delegation to the OPEC countries, calling on them not to increase their production, they added.

According to oil experts a fifty percent decline in Iran's oil production caused a three-dollar increase per barrel in the free market. Experts believe that if the current production ceiling was observed or better still reduced it would go a long way in stabilizing oil prices.

IRNA Analyzes SFRY Concern Over Oil Price Reduction

LD021458 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT 2 Feb 86

[Text] Belgrade, Feb. 2, IRNA — Yugoslavia is closely following recent upheavals on the world oil market. "We do not object to a drop in the price of crude", an official from the Secretariat for Energy and Industry said on Saturday in a conversation with

IRNA, "but neither do we wish to see prices plunge. A drop to below US dollar 25 per barrel would adversely affect Yugoslav foreign trade."

Developing countries such as Iran, Iraq, Libya and Algeria are the main suppliers of oil to Yugoslavia while buying her goods in a form of barter exchange. The USSR delivers oil to Yugoslavia at the rate of 5.5 tons per year, while carrying on more diversified forms of trade. A decrease in the income of countries largely dependent on oil exports, would automatically reduce the amount of goods they could continue to purchase from Yugoslavia.

In that event, this would leave two options open to Yugoslavia: To increase its imports of oil or other raw materials from these countries or to reroute its exports towards new markets — a theory very difficult to put into practice, as last year's foreign trade figures show. Yugoslavia failed to meet an ambitious target of a nominal 12 p.c. growth rate in exports, closing the year with an overall increase of 7 p.c. More significant attempts to increase exports to Western countries by 15 p.c. fell far short of the mark at 2.6 p.c., resulting in a negative balance of trade with the industrialised countries. The effect was to push trade more to the East as a 9 p.c. increase in exports to socialist countries showed. A more modest target of 5 p.c. overall export growth has been set for 1986.

The Soviets have reduced their oil price to Yugoslavia by 20 p.c. recently. "We are now trying to obtain more oil or other raw materials from the USSR, or alternatively find another market for our goods", said the energy and industry official.

It is possible that Yugoslavia might find cheaper oil on the open market, but the country suffers from a chronic shortage of cash. A serious drop in the price of crude would also damage Yugoslavia programmes aimed at replacing petro-energy with alternative methods.

Yugoslav economists are now studying ways of reducing the negative effects of a decrease in the price of crude on their foreign trade. If OPEC members decided to fix only a production ceiling and not oil prices, Yugoslavia would be able to negotiate prices on an individual basis with OPEC member countries, which could result to her advantage. Yugoslavia would favourably consider a net-back agreement for purchases of crude, although so far it has had no such agreement with OPEC.

Majlis Delegation Holds Talks With Pakistani Official

LD050941 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 5 Feb 86

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 5, IRNA — A six-member Iranian parliamentary delegation, currently visiting here headed by Majlis deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Hadi Ghaffari, met and conferred with the head of Pakistan parliament, Fakhr Imam, Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Pakistani official said that the visit of the Iranian delegation to Pakistan would play an outstanding role in further expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghaffari referred to Iran's foreign policy and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was interested in expanding its relations with Islamic countries, neighbouring countries in particular. The delegation invited the head of Pakistan's parliament to visit Iran which was accepted.

The Pakistani official also conveyed his greetings for Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The Iranian delegation then attended a luncheon held in its honour by the head of the National Consultative Council of Pakistan.

Ahmad Dargahi Appointed Deputy Premier

LD032049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 86

[Text] A decree issued by Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister, extends thanks for the services rendered by Davudi-Shamsi, the former head of the Physical Education Organization and appoints Ahmad Dargahi to the post of deputy prime minister and new head of the Physical Education Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chemical Weapons Warning System Developed

LD042046 Tehran IRNA in English 1916 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Feb. 4, IRNA — Iranian chemical engineers and technicians at the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) have developed automatic advance warning and alert systems sensitive to chemicals and radio-active substances, according to an IRGC officer in charge of chemical defence operations here Wednesday. [as received] The systems incorporate visual and audio alert devices which can give advance warning to combatants in the battlefronts. The IRGC official said Iranian infantry forces are also equipped with numerous other devices for neutralizing the effects of lethal chemical weapons, and have thereby minimized the effects of Baghdad's deployment of such weapons at any future time.

The IRGC official said stations for neutralizing the effects of chemical weapons have been established throughout the battlefronts, and noted that Iran's Muslim combatants have taken courses on how to cope with a chemical warfare.

Since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, the Iraqi forces have repeatedly deployed lethal chemical weapons against Iranians in the battlefronts and elsewhere upon civilian areas. To repel Iran's Muslim forces in [words indistinct] operations alone, the Iraqis fired 300-plus chemical bullets and another 120 chemical-fed rockets each bearing 40 litres of lethal chemical solution.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,371

LD041731 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 4 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 4, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants pounded Iraqi positions in the western fronts Monday killing or

wounding at least 15 Iraqi soldiers, while setting fire to parts of enemy positions, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Tuesday.

The Communique Number 2371 of the Joint Staff Command says that Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi forces from setting up breastworks and other positions in Halaleh and halted an Iraqi motorized unit elsewhere in Changuleh Monday.

Sporadic artillery duels between Iranian forces and Iraqi troops continued in the northwestern fronts Monday, says the Communique, adding that heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants on Iraqi tanks operating in Hoseyniyeh, in the southern front, silenced their fire and inflicted substantial casualties and losses on them.

In Zobeydah, Iran's gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions and their supply routes and elsewhere in Dehloran despatched patrols to reconnoiter Iraqi engineering and combat operations on Monday, according to the communique.

The communique says exchange of fire continued in the southern fronts Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Majnun Islands. Meanwhile, some buildings in Abadan were damaged Monday as they were hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire.